

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## ANNIVERSARIES OF THE YEAR

A most interesting anniversary of the year to women is the tercentenary of the completion of the Authorized, or King James, edition of the Bible. This edition, representing the work of a commission of scholars appointed by King James, was begun in 1601 and finished in 1611. The royal son of Marie Stuart and the kinsman of Queen Elizabeth is not remembered today because he inherited great personal or intellectual gifts from either, but several other things render him historically important. The Hampton Court Conference, from which the Authorized Version of the Bible dates, was held in his reign, and the long and cruel warfare between England and Scotland ceased with it, the two countries becoming united by his inheritance of the throne.

On April 25, 1711, David Hume, historian and philosopher, was born, and began a career which has produced an extraordinary effect upon all metaphysical thinking since his day. Thomas Ken, English bishop and author of the morning and evening hymns, "Awake, My Soul," and "Hymns to Thee, My God, This Night," hymns which have made his name known and loved the world over, died March 19, 1711.

The year marks the centenary of several important weddings. On March 25, 1811, Thomas Moore, the Irish poet, married Bessie Dyke, a pretty Irish actress, and on August 28, 1811, Percy Bysshe Shelley, when he was only nineteen years of age, took to wife Harriet Westbrook, the sixteen-year-old daughter of a cotton-house keeper. The marriage was unfortunate, and several years later Harriet Shelley drowned herself. The 18th of July, 1911, will be the centenary of William Makepeace Thackeray, whose name calls up a thousand delightful recollections associated with his books. The year is also the birth centenary of Edwin H. Davis, American archaeologist; Horace Greeley, journalist; Fanny Fern, authoress; John Bright, orator and author, among others.

In old Whitehall Palace, "revel warrant and command," on the first day of November, 1611, Shakespeare's "Tempest" was presented. So the world is again by so much under lasting debt to King James I. It is worthy of mention that the "Tempest" followed the first production of Ben Jonson's "Catalina" by just a fortnight, Jonson having then entered upon the most successful phase of his life.

Alexander Pope was but twenty-three when, in 1711, his "Essay on Criticism" followed the publication of his "Pastorals" and created for its author a reputation because of his wit and fine writing. March 1, 1711, was the birthday of the "Spectator," which came into being with the passing of the "Tatler," and talked the gossip of the coffee-house and the tea table under good Queen Anne. Number one of the "Spectator" was done by Addison and number two by Dick Steele. The immortal Sir Roger de Coverley sprang through Addison's creative genius into existence, and remains to exemplify immortal grace and loveliness in literature.

BETTY BERKELEY.

## THE HAPPY PHILOSOPHER AMONG WOMENKIND

Women who have made up their minds not to be worried over the vexations of life, who smile the more steadily the oftener disappointments gather, and a plenty of sunshine even in the cloudiest of life's weather. Other women and men gather around these human centres of sunshine and borrow inspiration from the radiance which they are constantly diffusing.

The laugh of the happy philosopher among womenkind is uttered as naturally and as freely as the song of birds in springtime, just bubbling up out of the pure joy of the philosopher's heart. The effervescence of a spirit so blithe sends care adrift to seek more promising company, with care closed to the sound of mirth that bids a merry dance, and is a hint for leave-taking, which is heard and heeded.

The happy philosopher has a kind and helpful word for every one, high or low, rich or poor. Indeed, the humbler and poorer the person the kinder and pleasanter, such a woman shows herself. Toward children she is especially sympathetic, winning their love because she gives love so freely to them.

Needless to say that the happy philosopher is always an optimist, one who always believes that the world is steadily growing better instead of worse. She is sure that the world is pretty much what people make it, and so she says: "If the world is bad, then let us make it better, so there will be gladness instead of grumbling. It is already a pretty good world in my opinion."

Every one with whom the happy philosopher comes into touch feels the influence of a life that preaches the best kind of a sermon, a sermon whose text cries aloud: Be careful, be helpful, and happy; smile. Care out of countenance by making the best of what happens, and then your pathway will be bright with sunshine like mine.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR A CLEVER WOMAN

February is a popular month for parties. As St. Valentine's Day, Washington's birthday both come this month there are many chances for a hostess to give some little party with a special significance. Here is the opportunity for the woman who can make some pretty heart-shaped favors or little gifts suggestive of the famous hatchet or cherry tree which make appropriate souvenirs for Washington's birthday. If you do not feel that you can make these things yourselves you can have a number of pretty trifles made some with your own hands, and make a nice little profit selling them to prospective entertainers. Also advertise heart-shaped sandwiches, cakes decorated with candy cups for afternoon teas on St. Valentine's Day, and other dainties of this kind, not forgetting cherry tarts and hatchet-shaped cookies for Washington's birthday.

**A Heart Hunt.**  
A jolly way of finding partners for supper at a Valentine entertainment is the cunning little candy hearts with molasses upon them which used to delight our sentimental childhood hearts? Hide these all about the room, here, there and everywhere; in nooks, corners and cupboards. After a time, drawing a bell, and have the women draw slips of paper in heart shape, which shall bear the name of some man present.



—L'ART DE LA MODE

## Twenty-Second of February Whist Party

As the guests arrived they were met by a miniature George Washington, who directed them to the next floor, where a Martha Washington of like stature pointed the way to the dressing rooms, and decorated each woman with a tiny hatchet. George and Martha were the hostess's small nephew and niece, correctly costumed, in descending to the cardrooms they found them gay with red, white and blue bunting, flags and so forth, with here and there a bunch of artificial cherries or a pasteboard sheet. The tables were covered with sheets of white blotting paper, and the number of each table was painted in gold on a little red, white and blue shield pasted on one corner of the table. The cards used were all new with an appropriate patriotic scene on the backs. The score cards were in the form of small American flags painted on card-board, with the blue unions left blank. As the points were marked the players were supplied by little George and Martha with gummed silver paper stars, which, when stuck upon the blank unions, served the double purpose of keeping score and completing the flags. A prize was provided for the most perfect flag, being in the form of a tiny hatchet. The holder of the highest score received a book, entitled "Fifty Views of Washington," which on being opened, was found to contain half a hundred 2-cent postage stamps. The consolation prize was a portrait of George Washington, the portrait being a postage stamp mounted on cardboard with a gilt frame painted around it. The refreshments were small individual Washington pies and cherry fruit punch.

## MOTHERS SHOULD MAKE CONFIDANTS OF THEIR DAUGHTERS

Probably one of the hardest things a woman has to do, when she is trying, as the head of a household, to study and practice economy, is to instill into the mind of her charming young daughter that there are many pretty whims in dress that she cannot afford, and must therefore do without.

Such a task is aggravated when the daughter has among her schoolmates and companions girls whose fathers can give them gowns and hats and gloves and shoes without stint. Girls are not discriminating as to differences in incomes. They are apt to think that what other girls can enjoy should also fall to their lot. She would like to have all the suit changes and the stylish accessories that render her intimate friends the trimmest and smartest figures that she knows, and she is apt to be unreasonable and impatient when her tastes and desires are limited.

Just here is where the value of entire confidence between mother and daughter counts for most. If both mother and daughter share the responsibilities and solve the problems of comparative poverty together, in a cheerful, unashamed spirit, without false assumption and with independent self-respect, economy will take on a new and glorified aspect.

Another habit of life, any yielding on the mother's part to undue extravagance in dress or housekeeping, to gratify her daughter's foolish desire to keep up appearances, will only be productive of mortification and unhappiness in the end. The mother will

eventually lose the respect of the daughter, who will blame her for not having stood firmly by principles of right. She will also be blamed by friends for going beyond her income and attempting an outlay which in her case is unjustifiable.

How much better all around for a mother to render economy in the eyes of a daughter a clever and even a desirable policy, to make of the daughter a responsible human being, willing to share the burdens of her parents by studying the worth of money and trying to get out of every dollar that is expended by her or for her a just and full equivalent.

## THE FEBRUARY BRIDE AND HER WEDDING GOWN

The February bride will, in many instances, make her choice among the white-bordered chiffons that may be transmuted into lovely wedding gowns. All-over lace is remarkably effective above satin for a home wedding, or a bordered net in tulle effect, with Mechlin lace to trim the bodice is both appropriate and tasteful. Should the bride remain faithful to the time-honored satin, she will find the new kind to be almost as soft as chiffon, yet possessing a very rich sheen. The satin skirts of wedding gowns have a new sash arrangement in two broad satin panels falling from the girde and crossing each other, the ends being held back at the sides of the skirt under satin-covered buttons.

The new effect in veils is known as

the bonnet effect. Its prettiness is sure to render it popular. One edge of the tulle is turned back and gathered to make a little puff, which sets becomingly above the face. Around the head, over the tulle, is bound a fillet of white ribbon, finished at one side with a cabuchon of white roses, and from this fillet the veil flows free over the skirt. Just now little roses made of white satin ribbon are the fashionable notion, and have taken the place of orange flowers.

The illusion veil is much easier to arrange becomingly than the heavier lace veil, which is apt to look stiff on any but an extremely pretty bride, and one who has an abundant supply of hair. A midwinter bride wore a veil of a dotted net pattern with a Lierre border, simply thrown over the hair and held in place with a white satin ribbon fillet that had tiny white ribbon roses sewed to it on the top of the head.

## FRENCH LOOK WITH SCORN UPON COLD STORAGE

We are considered very barbaric in our use of ice, or rather our abuse of it. Fish, as you all know, may not decompose for weeks if kept on ice, but that it loses its fine flavor and becomes oily no one denies. The same is true of poultry and many other things which we use daily and think but little about. The French cook would look with scorn upon our cold storage food products.

## KEEPING A BOY'S IDEAL PURE

The value of an ideal in keeping a character pure and loyal is universally recognized, but not every mother realizes that the ideal can hardly be presented too early. When sacred things are treated in a flippant way they forever lose their significance and power, and an opportunity is lost which might have been the occasion of permanent inspiration to the child. This is particularly true of matters relating to love and marriage. A child hears a great deal of banter and joking about beaus and sweethearts, and he comes to think reverently of these relations. A little thoughtfulness on the part of the mother would put the whole subject on another plane.

A mother who realizes these possibilities took the following method with her little boy. He was accustomed to whole black walnut shells, and he called them "mamma." Instead of wife or Mary. Suddenly, one day the question of his own future came to his mind, as it does to every boy, and he put the question to his mother: "Will I have a mamma or my own like papa when I grow up?"

The father began to laugh, but before he made any remark the mother hurried the child from the room and answered his question in her own way. "Yes," she said, "some day you will have a 'mamma' if you are a good boy. Somewhere in the world God has made a beautiful little girl to be your 'mama,' and she will wait for you to come and find her. But if you are not a good man she won't like you. If you are cross or selfish or unkind she won't want to be your 'mama.'"

## Recollections of Cushman the Great Actress

When the announcement was made some months ago that the belongings of Charlotte Cushman were to be sold at her Newport cottage a host of traditions and memories were aroused in the minds of American women, many of whom had seen the great nineteenth century actress in the zenith of her fame and popularity.

Charlotte Cushman's "Meg Merrilies" was almost as famous in its way as Joseph Jefferson's "Rip Van Winkle." She came to Richmond during the seventies and played that role before large and appreciative audiences in the Broad Street Theatre. Her Newport cottage was a storehouse for many rare and beautiful possessions gathered by Miss Cushman during her residence in Rome, Italy, and sent to her villa, where a special wing had been built for their reception.

In the large and valuable Cushman collection were a number of her stage costumes and the wigs worn by her in different characters, which it is interesting to note, were sold for use on the stage of to-day.

Charlotte Cushman's life was an inspiration to all women seeking success along artistic or dramatic lines, for her success was won in spite of many discouragements and by virtue of unflinching work and determination. Her unbending will never enabled her to hold at bay the disease which sapped her vital forces for years, and to accumulate a handsome provision for those she wished to leave independent. Her wonderfully deep voice, so well suited to tragedy, as much as her splendid acting, lingers in the memory of women who witnessed her stage triumphs, and causes them to recall the fact that Miss Cushman was originally trained for the opera, but lost her voice, it is believed, through the fault of her instructor. Her crowning as "Meg Merrilies" was something indescribably weird, adding immensely to her conception and presentation of the gipsy sibyl.

Along with memories of Charlotte Cushman in the Richmond Theatre come others of Edwin Booth, who was a great favorite here, and had many personal friends in Richmond. He frequently visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Courtney, then at 11 West Main Street with his daughters, and met there the late Dr. and Mrs. Hunter McGuire and other people of distinction. Although Edwin Booth was but a lad of seventeen years when Charlotte Cushman began her stage career by playing minor parts with his father, Junius Brutus Booth.

His home after his marriage to the pretty actress, Mary Devlin, was on Pinckney Street, Boston, but Booth had loved the South and made many successful tours through its principal cities. All of his greatest roles were presented in Richmond, and he scored a supreme triumph when he appeared here under the Lawrence Barrett management. Both Cushman and Booth were dramatic artists of the highest ideals and standards and did as much, or perhaps more, than any others of their day to dignify and elevate the profession of dramatic art in America. They sometimes played together, often more than otherwise in Shakespeare's "Macbeth."

## OUT OF LOSS AND TRIAL GROWS PROMISE OF FRUITFULNESS

Women may learn a lesson from an old Persian legend regarding a tall and stately tree that, crowned with shining foliage, stood in the garden of its wealthy owner year after year, without bearing either fruit or blossom. Season after season its spreading branches were clothed in green, but never a hint of flower, never a bending beneath the fragrant, colorful globes that weighted down other trees and rendered them valuable.

At last the lord of the garden came and, standing beside his graceful and beautiful but useless cumberer, said that when the leaves were sore it should be cut down and its place given to another that would be something better than a mere ornament, there being no garden space to spare for a barren tree.

The gardener heard his lord's sentence with sorrow. He had always loved the tree, had watched with pride its growth into straight, strong symmetry, and had constantly prized it, though it was only fair to see. "Leave it one season more," he begged his lord; "perchance it will come into full development by then." But his lord was firm and said the tree must go.

So the gardener set about his task with a heavy heart, and when the yellowed falling leaves reminded him of his lord's command. Duty and love were at war in his heart and slowed his hands at their task. His digging at the tree foundations and his loosening and cutting apart of the roots was not quite finished when night came, and he said sadly, "I will wish what I have begun to-morrow." But the morning was black with tempest, and many morrows like it followed. Through them all until they lengthened into a whole bleak winter, the tree stood with the snow piled about its roots hiding the unfinished work of the gardener.

At last the snow melted, the spring and the sunshine returned, and with them the fresh green leaves. Once more the gardener's heart was heavy. "The tree is dead," he whispered to himself; "dead in the midst of life around it, and I must needs go now and take it out of the garden."

While he paused his lord came, and the gardener led the way toward the tree. When they reached it they beheld a miracle of growth, for the tree was white with flowers, and its abundant promise of bearing. Out of the fear of its coming fate and the pain and humiliation it had endured, the tree had borne the realization hitherto delayed and unbelieved.

The tree is a symbol of many lives lived by women carelessly and thoughtlessly, without an idea of service to others or of betterment to the world around them, until loss and trial bring out a hidden sweetness and nobleness and render them fruitful of good deeds that bless the door and the world around her.

**A Beautiful Custom.**  
The school children of Southern California have a beautiful custom of remembering their teachers' birthdays with a shower of flowers.

A young friend of mine, teaching her first term of school and "new" to the country as well, was called from her room one noon and detained upon some pretext. When she returned a perfect vision of beauty greeted her. Her desk and chair were completely hidden by roses, the waste paper basket had been turned into a huge vase; the blackboard was draped with flowering vines, and a pathway had been made from the door to the desk by a double bank of bouquets.